

TAILY BONANZA

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UNWRITTEN LAW—APPLICATION, PAST AND PRESENT.

In Fresno today a man, M. Pittman, is standing trial for the murder of Andrew Nicholson, whom he admits he killed, claiming the dead man was too drunk with his wife. Following the killing Pittman gave himself up at police headquarters with the simple explanation, "I have just killed a twaddled dog." The husband's defense before a jury is based on the "Unwritten Law," so-called.

In the words of the preacher, "Kee-estee, the son of David, King in Jerusalem, there is no law now under the sun. What has happened here is the 'Unwritten Law,' employed so many times, and almost daily, to shield murderers from the consequences of their crimes, is as old as civilization. From the days of the children of Israel up to the present hour it has been invoked as a refuge and excuse for killing.

Delphine Deimes, the champion advocate of the country, by the way, when he employed the doctrine of Dementia Americana to account for the murder of the New York architect, Stanford White, on a roof garden on a summer night, but he offered no new theory. The pages of that story of the Old Testament, the Old Testament, furnish ample evidence that, while there might have been no smart lawyers among the tented cities of the children of Israel, there were those who knew the universal appeal and its powers, and employed it as occasion required.

The theory, as old as creation itself, that the name of a man or the opposite sex generally must be safeguarded, and that he who would despoil them must suffer with his life, has been invoked with more or less success through all the years that have come since Jehovah thundered out of Mt. Sinai, where the chosen people were given the tablets of stone containing the law.

But there was David, the father of Israel, set up as an exemplar for the young, a solo harpist in the camp of the Israelites. He was a sly dog, if the truth be known. One morning he rose from his couch to indulge an insatiable thirst, when he looked over the city and saw a beautiful woman in her bath. She was the wife of Uriah, and the name on her calling card was Bathsheba. She was the daughter of Eliam, and David won her. But, in order to avoid scandal over the back-fences of the neighborhood, he put up a job on Uriah, the Hittite, her husband, by sending him into battle and stationing him in that part of the line where the gas attack was fiercest. The consequence was that Uriah "went west" and David married the bereaved widow. David was the first man in all history to beat the game. Now if Mr. Pittman, that is another story.

David was never arraigned in the local police court for his offense. It was generally understood in the select circles of the Israelites that he had done a sordid trick to Uriah, by having his wife and then having him killed, but David was one of the leading citizens and nothing was done about it.

There is no more sudden history of man's perfidy and unbridled passion in the Old Testament than that of Amnon, brother of Absalom, who seduced their sister, Tamar. She is described in the Good Book as very "fair," and it is presumed she was one of the debilitated of the time. Her picture was likely on most of the society pages. But Tamar would not fall for Amnon, so he got Jonathan, who is described as a subtle rogue, to fix things for him, which he did. He had Tamar take some of her cakes (the kind that mother used to bake) to Amnon as he lay in his tent pretending to be sick and her ruin followed.

And how some Absalom got about it? He organized the sheep-shearers of Baal-hazor against Amnon, and when Amnon became merry standing with one foot on a brass rail in one of the neighboring emporiums, from indulging too freely in 2.75 per cent. wine, some of the gang that accompanied Absalom on the rail fell on Amnon and he was not. Then every one of the king's sons got his knife and fled, as the street cars were not running that day, being tied up in a dispute about collective bargaining.

Was Absalom pinched? Not a bit of it. He quietly went to Geshur, until the affair blew over, and David sent word that he was well pleased "seeing that Amnon was dead."

The story of Dinah, daughter of Leah, is recalled in this connection. Shechem, the son of Hamor, the Hittite, who carried the cote of the Second ward in his pocket, fell in love with her, and she surrendered the most precious gift that a woman can give a man. Jacob was confidentially told by a "friend" what had happened, and the old gentleman got very angry and sent word to Shechem that he would thrash him within an inch of his life if he met him. Hamor wanted his son to marry Dinah, but it seems that Jacob thought his daughter was too good to tie up with the Shechem trash and he filed an objection that could be heard throughout the whole length and breadth of the land. He had a lot of other reasons and among them was that his proposed son-in-law had not obeyed all the commandments given the Jews, as to circumcision.

While Jacob was studying what he would do about it two of the girl's brothers, Simeon and Levi, slew both Hamor and Shechem, thinking they might as well clean out the entire family while they were at it. They not only put both men to the sword, but plundered their herds, consisting of some of the best sheep to be found anywhere in that township.

Was there unbridled indignation on the part of the people because of the murder? Scarcely. Both the Canaanites and the Perisites held mass conventions and accorded the freedom of the tented city to Simeon and Levi. The last named set up a pawnshop, and has been in business ever since. The papers of that time merely ran a two-line nonpareil funeral notice, giving the hour of interment, and asked that no flowers be sent.

But there was one incident wherein it was not thought worth while to enforce the "Unwritten Law." It was after Rachel had

given birth to Benjamin, the travail which caused her death, when the Israelites had spread their tents beyond the tower of Eder. Then it was Reuben, son of Leah (for Jacob married both Leah and Rachel, daughters of Laban), had a little affair with Bilhah, his father's concubine, and Israel heard about it. But nothing was done. The Israelites thought possibly it was a strict family matter and there was no occasion for interference. Which is an indication that some men can get away with things better than others.

FORMER TONOPAH MINER IS DEAD

John Dornan Worker For Tonopah Mining Company Under Management of Oddie.

July 14. John Dornan, senior, who died here a week ago Friday and was on the train at Taramie, Wyoming, was an out-time resident of Nevada, having been in the mining business in Tonopah years ago. Though sixty-eight years of his life had been constantly active and he had never experienced a day's illness until last Christmas, when the muscles of his heart gave away and dropsy resulted, and he gradually grew worse until his death.

His unfinished journey was a desperate attempt to prolong his life. Mr. and Mrs. John Beach came to Elko several weeks ago for the purpose of accompanying Mr. Dornan to Elko, to be placed in the Englewood hospital for medical attention, and were with him when death came. The remains will be interred in the Mount Olivet cemetery of that city.

Mr. Dornan came from his native land of Ireland when he was twenty years of age. He resided first at Chicago, where he was a railroad man. Coming

LAKE COUNTY WATER PROJECT NOT VALID

LAKEPORT, Cal., July 13.—The state supreme court has ruled to void the Lake County Water District, which was formed in December 1915, about the shore of Clear Lake, with the intention of preserving the lake for the benefit of the people of that section and selling irrigation water to the people of Yolo county for use on rice lands. The matter has been in the courts ever since the district was formed.

To Nevada he worked for the Tonopah Mining company under the management of T. L. Oddie for five years, and located in Elko in 1907.

He is survived by his widow and several children. Mrs. Dornan, a daughter, accompanied by her child, has come from Hammond, Indiana, to be with her mother, John Dornan, Jr., a prominent business man here, has been closely associated with his father all his life.

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Political Announcements

ARTHUR S. PUTNEY
 ANNOUNCES HIS CANDIDACY FOR THE
 REPUBLICAN NOMINATION FOR
SHERIFF AND ASSESSOR
 Subject to the will of the voters at the Primary
 Election, September 7, 1920.

CHARLES S. EVANS
 ANNOUNCES HIS CANDIDACY FOR THE
 DEMOCRATIC NOMINATION
FOR CONGRESS
 Subject to the will of the voters at the Primary
 Election, September 7, 1920.

GEORGE W. ALLEN
 ANNOUNCES HIS CANDIDACY FOR THE
Justice of the Peace
 (of Tonopah Township)
 Subject to the will of the voters at the Primary
 Election, September 7, 1920.

SAMUEL S. ARENTZ
 ANNOUNCES HIS CANDIDACY FOR THE
 REPUBLICAN NOMINEE
FOR CONGRESS
 Subject to the will of the voters at the Primary
 Election, September 7, 1920.

FRANK BELL
 ANNOUNCES HIS CANDIDACY FOR THE
 DEMOCRATIC NOMINATION FOR
COUNTY COMMISSIONER
 (SHORT TERM)
 Subject to the will of the voters at the Primary
 Election, September 7, 1920.

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